

## PRESS RELEASE

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August 22, 2014

## LIHEAP OFFERS HELP WITH ENERGY COSTS

**Rockford** – Information is now available for the fall Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for eligible residents in Winnebago and Boone Counties. LIHEAP pays a benefit directly to energy companies on behalf of eligible households or directly to eligible renters if all energy costs are included in their rent.

Many area sites will be scheduling appointments for the program. Residents can pick up site lists and program information at the City of Rockford Human Services Department, 555 N. Court St., Suite 301 or can find information at <a href="https://www.rockfordil.gov">www.rockfordil.gov</a> under Human Services Dept./Community and Neighborhood Programs.

Residents can begin calling the sites serving their category on the following dates per the instructions on the site lists: September 2<sup>nd</sup> for seniors and disabled households, October 7<sup>th</sup> for disconnected households and households with children under 6 years old, and November 4<sup>th</sup> for the general public. Call-in times to make an appointment are determined by each site. Residents who were not able to receive an appointment during their category month can continue to call the first Tuesday of the following months until funds are exhausted.

Please be advised that there has been a significant decrease in LIHEAP funding which will impact the number of qualified residents the program will be able to serve this year.

LIHEAP is a program of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Energy Assistance funded through the U.S. Department of Human Services and administered locally by the City of Rockford Human Services Department.